



Date: September 30, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending September 30, 2005

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending September 30, 2005. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP #4

Personal Preparedness: Be in the Know! Five Days of Self-Reliance

Elements to an Emergency Preparedness Plan

- Designate an out-of-state contact person for all family members to contact.
- Duplicate important documents such as medical and insurance information.
- Make your home safe. Identify and fix potential hazards.
- Talk with your family about potential disasters and discuss a plan for each.

For a complete guide to planning and preparation, and Emergency Preparedness Tips #1-3, visit www.longbeach.gov

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Time For Change: City of Long Beach Hurricane Disaster Relief Efforts

A message from Gerald R. Miller, City Manager

I would like to thank all of you who have supported the City sponsored ***Time For Change*** campaign. I would also like to thank the businesses that have so graciously shown their support of Hurricane Katrina victims through donations to this campaign. Thanks to City employees, special efforts by the Fire Department and tremendous support from the business community, we have already exceeded \$20,000 in donations to the American Red Cross.

As you know, hurricane relief efforts will be required for an extended period of time. If you haven't had the opportunity to donate and would like to do so, please make your donations prior to Friday, October 7. If you prefer to donate by check, please make checks payable to *City of Long Beach Disaster Relief*. All donations are forwarded to the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Your generosity has clearly demonstrated that the City's motto, Working Together To Serve, reaches beyond the City of Long Beach to others in need.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts (continued)

Fire

The four firefighters that were sent to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina three weeks ago remain in the Gulf Region assisting citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina. Two of the firefighters are assigned near Tallahassee, Florida, working at a Red Cross Center assisting with processing individuals. The other two firefighters are in Mississippi, assisting FEMA with issuing trailers to local residents that need shelter.

On September 24, Firefighters from Fire Station 18 supported the Annual *Shoe Drive*. Engine 18 provided an apparatus display and helped collect shoes donated from the public. The shoes are donated to various charities throughout the United States and Mexico. In addition, the shoes will be donated to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

On September 24, Long Beach Firefighters from Station 10 and Battalion Chief 1 provided an apparatus display at the *Cambodian Americans Stand United*, a Hurricane Katrina fundraiser event held at Macarthur Park. The event featured a raffle, cultural dance performances, food, religious ceremonies, and children's activities. All donations collected will go to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

AWARDS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

America's Promise Alliance selected Long Beach as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. The award recognizes the commitment Long Beach has kept to provide young people a healthy, safe and caring environment to grow up in. The national award was announced on *Good Morning America* and in *Newsweek Magazine*.

The efforts of all City departments and many local youth-serving organizations were identified in the award application, as delivering outstanding services to a diverse population of over 130,000 young people. City and community agencies have worked together to increase options for young people after school, such as the Long Beach WRAP after school program, which delivers after school programs to over 40 school sites. Many other programs throughout the city work to fulfill the five promises that are critical to the well being of young people: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others. Two programs that demonstrated the city's overall commitment to youth included LBUSD receiving the BROAD Award, and the citywide effort to prevent youth violence.

Also noted was the Citywide Commission on Youth and Children, whose membership included a young person representing each of the nine City Council districts. It has proven to be an innovative strategy to get young people involved in the decisions that affect them. In place for over one year, the Commission is a great example of the power of adult/ youth partnership.

NEWS UPDATE

Public Works, Airport

On Wednesday, September 28, at approximately 1:30 p.m., a rental van with out-of-state license plates, blocked windows, and unidentified equipment protruding from one window, was observed parked in a no parking zone just outside the Long Beach Airport fence line at the departure end of Runway 30.

Based on security protocols established to address terrorist threats against civil aviation, including the potential use of surface to air missiles (MANPADS), the area was immediately closed to the public. A command center was established nearby, the Airport's two main runways were closed to departing aircraft.

During the next three hours and 20 minutes the incident played out. More than 40 police personnel responded, and in addition to Airport personnel, involved agencies included Long Beach Fire, L.A. County Sheriff, L.A. County Sheriff Bomb Squad with bomb dogs and robot, FBI, TSA, and FAA. In addition to street closures (Pixie/Cover and Industry/Cover), two airlines had flight delays, adjacent businesses evacuated their facilities, and some Boeing operations were impacted.

After a significant amount of investigation, it was determined that the vehicle had been placed at that location in order to "monitor air quality." The vehicle was removed from the restricted location at 4:45 p.m.

Long Beach Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy predicts a significant rise in the cost of gas this winter. Long Beach's gas utility customers have price protections in the form of a ceiling on the price of gas at \$1 per therm and eight million therms in storage purchased during the summer at lower prices. However, the best way to keep winter bills as low as possible is to conserve energy. Visit www.lbenergy.org or call 570-2060 for information.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Fire

A Department Strike Team, consisting of five engine companies and a Battalion Chief, and additional engines have responded to a mutual aid request for a brush fire burning in the area of the 118 Freeway, west of Topanga Canyon Drive in Los Angeles County.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

On September 28, bureau staff conducted a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandated tabletop exercise. There were 52 people in attendance with representatives from the Coast Guard, FBI, LA County, National Transportation Safety Board, the Transportation Security Administration and airlines, as well as several city departments. This year the tabletop exercise focused on a commercial air carrier going down in the water off of the coast of Long Beach. Discussion centered on interagency communication, response capability and resources. This precedes the FAA mandated live drill scheduled for spring 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Harbor Department

The public is invited to *The Green Port* Open House on **Saturday, October 1**, to learn more about the Port's environmental programs through more than 30 exhibits and displays; harbor cruises; and presentations on Air, Water, Soil, Wildlife, Community and Sustainability programs. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend, with the Queen Mary providing free overflow parking.

Long Beach Energy

LBE is asking its customers to schedule furnace pilot relighting appointments now. Customers can save time and avoid inconvenience by making and appointment to schedule pilot re-lighting service before the winter season arrives. Residents and businesses that delay until the cold season hits can expect extended waits for this service. Appointments can be made by calling 562.570.5700, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or through the LBE website at www.lbenergy.org.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

Long Beach Aviation Legends is currently on display in the City Hall Lobby. It features six aviators all with an historic connection in Long Beach. It will be on display throughout the fall.

AWARDS

Police

On September 25, nine Long Beach PAL members competed at the 3rd Annual California Youth Karate Nationals. The competition included various types of discipline such as weapons, forms, traditional forms and sparring. The team received eleven 1st place trophies, seven 2nd place trophies and three 3rd place trophies.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,472 emergency calls for service: 105 calls for fires, of which 10 involved structures; and 755 emergency medical calls, of which 514 required paramedics.

Police

The Drug Investigations Section arrested six people for various drug charges and a meth-lab was discovered as a result of an on-going investigation. In addition, weapons, drugs and surveillance equipment were seized.

In conjunction with the FBI and other agencies, the Department served simultaneous search warrants in the City and surrounding cities targeting a local gang for federal crimes. Sixteen suspects were successfully served and arrested.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Police

In a continuing effort to suppress gang activity, beginning September 29 and continuing every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through October 29, a Task Force will be deployed in areas of recent shootings and gang activity. Previous operations have demonstrated that proactive enforcement and visible police presence have a suppressive impact on gang and violent crime.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

On September 24, bureau staff and the Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee hosted a Health and Safety Fair at Burnett Elementary School. More than 350 residents came to have fun, enjoy the music of the LBPB Blue Steel Band, eat lunch and get valuable information about programs and services available to them. Representatives from the Long Beach Fire Department, Parks Recreation and Marine, Citizen Police Complaint Commission, the City Prosecutor's Office, Long Beach Public Library, St. Mary's Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital were represented at the event.

On September 21, bureau staff and residents of the Willmore Neighborhood Services Strategy Area held a meeting at the Willmore Community Police Center to discuss the beautification of a vacant lot located at 734-736 Maine Ave. The residents are looking forward to working with City representatives to make this area a pocket park. The meeting was attended by more than 20 residents and was conducted in Spanish with English translation.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Bureau staff continues to haul, spread, and stack sand to repair erosion and maintain the sand berms from the heavier than usual wave action on the beach. The areas most affected are the 72nd Place lifeguard station, Junipero lifeguard headquarters, and the area off 64th Place.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The parking lot next to the campground at El Dorado Park East Area Two has been resurfaced and re-striped, and new ADA signage has been installed. ADA improvements at the El Dorado Teen Center and the Department's Administration Building are complete.

Locker room and office area renovation at Silverado Pool has been completed. Work on the pool area continues.

Trees have been removed, rough electrical is being installed, and the chain link fence is being demolished at the proposed Grace Park located on the corner of Plymouth Street and Elm Avenue. The park area east of Elm Avenue is being prepared for the community gardens.

The asphalt has been removed and replaced in the bike path in El Dorado Park East Area Three. The path has been slurry sealed and re-striped.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Fire

The Long Beach Fire Department and the *Assisteens*, an auxiliary group of the Assistance League of Long Beach, have joined together to present the *Hug-A-Bear* Program. This program, which provides teddy bears for children who experience traumatic events, will begin on October 1, with a delivery of teddy bears to all 23 Fire Stations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Harbor Department is airing *Pulse of the Port*, a half-hour cable TV news magazine program taking viewers behind the scenes at the Port of Long Beach. *Pulse of the Port* will air Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., on the City of Long Beach's Channel 8 government access channel hosted by Charter Communications. The Friday airing is broadcast in Spanish.

SPECIAL EVENTS

KOST FM, 103.5 FM, with Mark and Kim, broadcast live from 6:00 am – 10:00 am at Bubba Gump's this morning. They collected toys for the charity "My Stuff" bags, which will be delivered to children in shelters in the Gulf States. During the broadcast, they talked a great deal about the Pike area, the shops on Pine, the Aquarium, Queen Mary, etc., and urged people to visit Downtown Long Beach.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On September 27, approximately 70 senior volunteers were honored at the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held at the El Dorado Park Senior Center.

On September 28, Houghton Park, in cooperation with the Long Beach Health Department, hosted a Teen Rally and Health Fair with more than 250 teens in attendance. This event promoted healthy living, resistance to negative peer pressure and employment opportunities. The Skate Park on Wheels Program participated in the *Energize and Mobilize* event, with 41 skaters attending the health fair.

On September 28, approximately 20 teens participated in the *First Annual "Def" Poetry Contest* at Recreation Park. Encouraging creative writing and speaking skills, the youth covered various topics of life as they see it, while the art of Hip-Hop was explored. The audience of their peers was allowed to crown the winner based on skill and talent.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming

Chelsea Pictures, with a cast and crew of 60, filmed a TV commercial for Foot Locker and Nike at the Long Beach Arena on September 22.

Warner Brothers, with a cast and a crew of 70, filmed a TV production, *The O.C.*, on Bay Shore Drive and 47th Street on September 27.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services

Staff completed a total of 3,376 service calls, including 987 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 863 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,183 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 343 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 486 emergency phone calls that resulted in 119 emergency orders being sent out.

Public Works, Street Improvement

Contact: 570-5160

La Perla Ave.	El Mirador Ave. to El Cedral St.
College Circle	Atherton frontage full circle
Keynote St.	Rutgers Ave. to Bellflower frontage
Maine Ave.	Spring St. to 31st St.
Freeland St.	California St. to Cerritos Ave.
Scott St.	Rahn Ave. to Long Beach Blvd.
Shipway Ave.	Los Santo Dr. to Point North of Los Santo Dr.
Orange Ave.	11th street to point North of 11th St.
17th St.	Long Beach Blvd. to Linden Ave.
Freeman Ave.	8th St. to 10th St.
Eucalyptus Ave.	20th St. to Hill St.

Estimated completion: October 2005

Clark Avenue Spring Street to Wardlow Road

Estimated Completion: November 2005

Del Amo Blvd.	Los Angeles River to Long Beach Boulevard
Artesia Blvd.	West of Long Beach Boulevard to Harbor Street
Atlantic Ave.	North of Artesia Boulevard to a point North of 68th Street
Cherry Avenue	North of Artesia Boulevard to 70th Street
Artesia Blvd.	East of Obispo Avenue to Downey Avenue

Estimated Completion: December 2005

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
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